Impure mineral water in the Railways

1012. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what new initiatives the Indian Railway Catering Corporation is going to take;

(b) whether it is a fact that the recent investigation conducted by the Railways reveals that the level of impurity in mineral water supplied to rail passengers and others at stations and in trains is more than 25 per cent; and

(c) if so, whether the Ministry proposes to set up its own water treatment plant for supply to the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) will endeavour to professionalise, upgrade catering/vending services, introduce value-added tour packages, provide budget hotels on Indian Railways etc.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However to improve quality of mineral water for rail passengers and others, Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC)—a subsidiary of Indian Railways—will set up water purification plant for manufacture and supply of pure drinking water on Railways.

Length of Rail Route

†1013. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of rail route in the country at present;

(b) the kilometerage of rail lines on which electric and diesel

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

engines are being operated, separately;

(c) the total length of rail route extended during the last three years; and

(d) the amount spent thereon during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The total length of railway lines (route kilometres) in the country is 63,028 kms. (latest available figure as on 31.3.2001).

(b) Out of the total route kilometres as given above, 15,398 route kms. are electrified. While electric locos run only on electrified route, diesel locos can run on the entire network.

(c) and (d) New lines constructed and gauge conversions completed as well as the amount spent thereon during the last three years are given below:

	New lines (kms.)	Gauge conversions (kms.)	Amount spent (Rs. crores)
1998-99	224	693	1164.49
1999-00	167	260	1125.56
2000-01	152	92	1221.92

Conversion of Rangiya-Murkongselek Rail Line

1014. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to convert the Rangiya-Murkongselek MG rail line into BG;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF